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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 5

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Agreement on joint activities in the study and utilization of outer space, signed on 30 December 1991 by the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The States Parties to this Agreement,

Noting the great significance of space science and technology for the development of the States members of the Commonwealth,

Recognizing the need to combine efforts for the effective study and utilization of outer space in the interests of the national economy and of science, as well as to ensure defensive capacity and to guarantee the collective security of the States members of the Commonwealth,

Affirming the need for strict compliance with the inter[illegible]al agreements and obligations previously entered into by the USSR in the area of the study and utilization of outer space,

Considering that the adoption of the Agreement on joint activities in the study and utilization of outer space will serve the interests of its signatory States,

Have agreed on the following:

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Article 1

Joint activities in the study and utilization of outer space shall be carried out by the States Parties to this Agreement on the basis of inter-State programmes.

Article 2

The implementation of the inter-State programmes for the study and utilization of outer space shall be coordinated by the Inter-State Space Council, composed of plenipotentiary representatives of the States Parties to this Agreement, and the Council's statute shall be ratified by a decision of the heads of Government.

The States Parties to this Agreement may have independent programmes for the study and utilization of outer space.

Article 3

The conduct of inter-State programmes for the study and utilization of outer space in the area of space assets of a military and dual (military and civilian) kind shall be undertaken by the joint strategic armed forces.

Article 4

The inter-State programmes for the study and utilization of outer space shall be financed by means of assessed contributions from the States Parties to this Agreement and shall be based at existing and recently established space centres and facilities (the "Baikonur" and "Plesetsk" space centres, technical, launching and landing complexes, landing areas for separated components of launch vehicles, flight control centres for space vehicles, astronaut training centres, control and instrumentation facilities, information compilation and processing points, arsenals and other facilities).

The use of this infrastructure for the conduct of independent programmes by the States Parties to this Agreement shall be determined by separate agreements between the parties concerned.

Article 5

Expenditure on the utilization of existing, and the creation of new, space systems intended to serve the national economy or scientific and military purposes and on the maintenance of the unique test facilities, as well as any profits received from space projects and space vehicle launches carried out on a commercial basis, shall be shared among the States Parties to this Agreement in accordance with their assessed participation.

The States Parties to this Agreement shall be liable for their activities in the study and utilization of outer space under conditions and a regime to be determined by special agreement.

Article 6

The States Parties to this Agreement undertake to organize their activities in the study and utilization of outer space in accordance with the existing norms of international law and to coordinate their efforts aimed at resolving problems under international law related to the study and utilization of outer space.

Article 7

The States Parties to this Agreement undertake to accept the mutually agreed decisions determining the regime of their prorated participation in financing inter-State programmes in the study and utilization of outer space, the provision of facilities, areas of land, material and energy resources, the payment of compensation for damage connected with the use of space technology, as well as the regime for the denunciation of this Agreement by one or all States Parties.

Article 8

The States Parties to this Agreement undertake to provide the individuals and facilities involved in the conduct of inter-State programmes in the study and utilization of outer space with the necessary material and technical resources, to offer privileges in the area of State regulations and taxation, as well as to resolve questions of social security.

In the determination of State budgets, they undertake, with effect from 1992, to make provision for the allocation of the necessary resources for the implementation of inter-State programmes.

Article 9

The States Parties to this Agreement undertake to carry out the specialized training of qualified experts in their higher education systems, in scientific research institutes and in their academies of science, in order to provide trained professional staff for space infrastructure facilities.

Article 10

The States Parties to this Agreement shall take no decisions and shall perform no actions leading to the violation (the obstruction) of the normal functioning of space facilities and centres situated on their territories.

They undertake to preserve and to develop the existing technological and production potential for the planning, creation, testing and processing of rocket and space technology within the context of the inter-State programmes that have been adopted.

Article 11

With the consent of the States Parties to this Agreement, other States may also accede to it.

Article 12

The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

DONE in the city of Minsk on 30 December 1991 in one original copy in the official languages of the States Parties to this Agreement.

The original copy shall be kept in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send authenticated copies of this Agreement to the States Parties.

For the Republic of Armenia
L. TER-PETROSIAN

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
A. MUTALIBOV

For the Republic of Belarus
S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. NAZARBAEV

For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
A. AKAEV

For the Russian Federation
B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan
R. NABIEV

For Turkmenistan
S. NIYAZOV

For the Republic of Uzbekistan
I. KARIMOV